



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE DATA
AND INFORMATION SERVICE
NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER
151 PATTON AVE ROOM 120
ASHEVILLE NC 28801-5001

6 April 2010

MEMORANDUM

From: Karsten Shein, Customer Service Branch, CSMD, NCDC
To: Thomas Karl, Director, NCDC
Subject: SCEC: New all-time annual record of precipitation for Arkansas in 2009

On February 10, 2010 the State Climate Extremes Committee (SCEC) was convened via teleconference to evaluate the validity of an annual total measurement of precipitation observed at Leola, Arkansas (COOP 034134) during the calendar year of 2009. The total observed precipitation of 100.05 inches which fell between January 1st and December 31st at Leola exceeded the previous state record annual precipitation of 98.55 inches set at New Hope, Arkansas (COOP 035174) in 1957. A copy of the information statement released by the National Weather Service (NWS) Little Rock office on January 1st, 2010 is attached.

The Cooperative Weather Observing station at Leola is located in central Arkansas (Climate Division 5) and has been in operation since 1947. According to the NWS office at Little Rock, there are no issues of concern with either the station siting or with the observer. The site has been visited and was found to be up to prescribed observing standards. The National Climatic Data Center's (NCDC) Health of the Network system was used to review the observations and quality control flags for Leola's 2009 daily precipitation observations. No quality control issues were found and no observations were flagged as questionable or invalid.

The SCEC voted unanimously to accept the 100.05 inches of precipitation as valid, pending the final quality control of the November and December observations. These observations were finalized by NCDC in late March, 2010 and no invalidating issues were found. As a result, the SCEC recommends that the 100.05 inches of precipitation observed at Leola, AR be officially recognized as the all-time greatest annual total of precipitation observed for the state of Arkansas.

State Climate Extremes Members:

Renee Fair, National Weather Service, Little Rock WFO
Brian Smith, National Weather Service, Little Rock WFO
Michael Borengasser, Arkansas State Climatologist
Kevin Robbins, Southern Regional Climate Center
Victor Murphy, National Weather Service Southern Region HQ
Mike Asmus, National Weather Service Southern Region HQ
Karsten Shein, National Climatic Data Center

File with NCDC/State Climate Extremes Committee





National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office Little Rock, AR

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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...UPDATED
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LITTLE ROCK AR
 810 AM CST FRI JAN 1 2010

...2009...A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR RAINFALL IN ARKANSAS...

ARKANSAS WEATHER IN 2009 WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THE EXCESSIVE RAINFALL TOTALS IN NOT ONLY MAY...JULY...SEPTEMBER...OCTOBER... AND DECEMBER...BUT FOR THE YEAR AS WELL. MANY STATIONS ACROSS THE STATE SAW FROM NEARLY 80 TO 90 INCHES OF RAINFALL. LEOLA IN GRANT COUNTY RECORDED AN INCREDIBLE 100.05 INCHES OF RAIN. 2009 WAS ONE OF THE TEN WETTEST YEARS ON RECORD AT MANY LOCATIONS ACROSS ARKANSAS. AT 15 STATIONS...2009 WAS THE WETTEST YEAR EVER RECORDED.

BELOW IS A LIST OF STATIONS WHERE 2009 WAS ONE OF THE TEN WETTEST YEARS.

THESE TOTALS ARE PRELIMINARY UNTIL QUALITY CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER.

STATION	2009 RAIN	WETTEST YEAR SINCE	RANK - WETTEST YEARS ON RECORD AND WETTEST YEAR OR PREVIOUS WETTEST YEAR	RECORDS BEGAN
LEOLA	100.05	1957	1ST PREV 85.31 IN 1957	1943
SHERIDAN	90.91	1990	1ST PREV 75.51 IN 1990	1977
HOPPER 1 E	90.45	1957	1ST PREV 85.56 IN 1957	1948
ANTOINE	89.07	1973	1ST PREV 80.98 IN 1973	1940
MURFREESBORO 1 W	88.31	1973	1ST PREV 85.01 IN 1973	1916
WARREN 2 WSW	87.47	1905	1ST PREV 81.87 IN 1905	1893
CRYSTAL VALLEY	85.53	1973	1ST PREV 81.37 IN 1973	1941
NEWPORT WATER PLANT	84.15	1957	1ST PREV 80.88 IN 1957	1892
CAMDEN	82.11	1957	1ST PREV 76.25 IN 1957	1893
LITTLE ROCK	81.79	1882	1ST PREV 75.54 IN 1882	1878
FORDYCE	81.72	1945	1ST PREV 75.50 IN 1945	1911
NORTH LITTLE ROCK	79.61	1990	1ST PREV 63.65 IN 1990	1976
MORRILTON	76.86	1957	1ST PREV 73.58 IN 1957	1919
AUGUSTA 2 NW	75.43	1957	1ST PREV 74.88 IN 1957	1943
KELSO 3 NW	64.57	1991	1ST PREV 63.35 IN 1991	1985
MALVERN	87.07	1973	2ND 89.69 IN 1973	1948
BLAKELY MTN DAM	85.96	1973	2ND 86.05 IN 1973	1950
DES ARC	83.57	1957	2ND 88.72 IN 1957	1903
BONNERDALE 4 SW	81.07	1973	2ND 81.84 IN 1973	1965
PINE RIDGE	79.83	1945	2ND 79.95 IN 1945	1925
DAMASCUS 2 NNE	78.81	1957	2ND 81.24 IN 1957	1940
PINE BLUFF	78.02	1905	2ND 82.89 IN 1905	1884
PERY	76.54	1957	2ND 76.56 IN 1957	1902
SEARCY	76.25	1957	2ND 87.02 IN 1957	1892
NIMROD DAM	74.56	1984	2ND 77.92 IN 1984	1939
MONTICELLO	73.86	1958	2ND 75.65 IN 1958	1876
HOT SPRINGS AIRPORT	70.71	1990	2ND 77.08 IN 1990	1986
CLARENDON	70.56	1927	2ND 72.40 IN 1927	1904
MCARTHUR	69.11	2004	2ND 80.16 IN 1991	1985
RATCLIFF	61.70	1945	2ND 67.17 IN 1945	1944

HOT SPRINGS N P	80.61	1973	3RD	84.92	IN 1973	1875
GREERS FERRY DAM	74.44	1990	3RD	78.69	IN 1957	1903
GEORGETOWN	72.95	1957	3RD	79.39	IN 1957	1912
BATESVILLE LIVESTOCK	67.34	1973	3RD	68.73	IN 1945	1941
SAINT CHARLES	66.87	1991	3RD	71.96	IN 1957	1930
MAMMOTH SPRING	66.63	1982	3RD	69.86	IN 1982	1904
MELBOURNE 5 W	63.24	2008	3RD	74.72	IN 1973	1948
CLARKSVILLE 6 NE	63.14	2008	3RD	71.21	IN 1990	1989
ARKADELPHIA	79.58	1973	4TH	87.35	IN 1905	1892
GLENWOOD	79.19	1990	4TH	92.92	IN 1990	1935
CONWAY	72.46	1973	4TH	73.58	IN 1973	1890
CABOT 4 SW	67.34	1990	4TH	80.78	IN 1957	1918
MOUNTAIN HOME 1 NNW	63.18	2008	4TH	74.54	IN 1927	1902
SALEM	60.18	2008	4TH	61.76	IN 2008	1955
BIG FORK 1 SSE	76.08	2008	5TH	88.31	IN 1973	1944
WASHITA	66.81	1990	5TH	79.62	IN 1990	1951
GILBERT	60.11	2008	5TH	71.51	IN 1927	1924
CALICO ROCK	59.29	2008	5TH	72.66	IN 1945	1904
LEAD HILL	58.42	2008	5TH	74.29	IN 2008	1927
COVE	70.22	1991	6TH	78.70	IN 1991	1946
ROHWER 2 NNE	67.83	2001	6TH	73.94	IN 2001	1959
HARRISON	61.22	2008	6TH	68.42	IN 1927	1891
BLUE MOUNTAIN DAM	56.12	2008	6TH	69.41	IN 1973	1939
MENA	75.18	2008	7TH	84.65	IN 1990	1892
BOONEVILLE	60.91	2008	7TH	80.88	IN 2008	1948
JASPER	57.23	2008	7TH	76.25	IN 1973	1948
AMITY 1 N	69.99	2008	9TH	85.35	IN 1973	1896
DANVILLE	66.19	2008	9TH	71.69	IN 1945	1916
GRAVELLY 1 ESE	64.42	2008	9TH	85.19	IN 2008	1940
SUBIACO	60.59	2008	9TH	69.45	IN 1927	1910

OTHER RAINFALL TOTALS FOR 2009

MENA AIRPORT	87.69
ARKADELPHIA AIRPORT	82.02
NEWPORT AIRPORT	77.46
LITTLE ROCK AFB/JACKSONVILLE	73.79
MOUNT IDA ASOS	67.79
BATESVILLE AIRPORT	66.39

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